

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 541 140 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 92202905.3

(51) Int. Cl. 5: H02H 3/00

(22) Date of filing: 22.09.92

(30) Priority: 21.10.91 US 779766

(43) Date of publication of application:
12.05.93 Bulletin 93/19

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

(68) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
30.03.94 Bulletin 94/13

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(54) Drive apparatus for a power device.

(57) A drive apparatus (10) which electrically isolates logic level and high-side circuits and detects high side power device fault conditions at the isolated, logic level side of the circuit. When an overvoltage or overcurrent condition occurs at the power semiconductor device (12), a protection circuit (22) disables the conduction of current through the current carrying terminals of the power device, preventing

damage from occurring to the device. Activation of the protection circuit effects an increased current flow in the secondary and primary coils of the isolation transformer (16) between the low side and high side elements. Voltage at the primary coil of the isolation transformer is monitored by low level circuitry (24) to detect the rise in current, indicating a fault to the system controller upon detection.

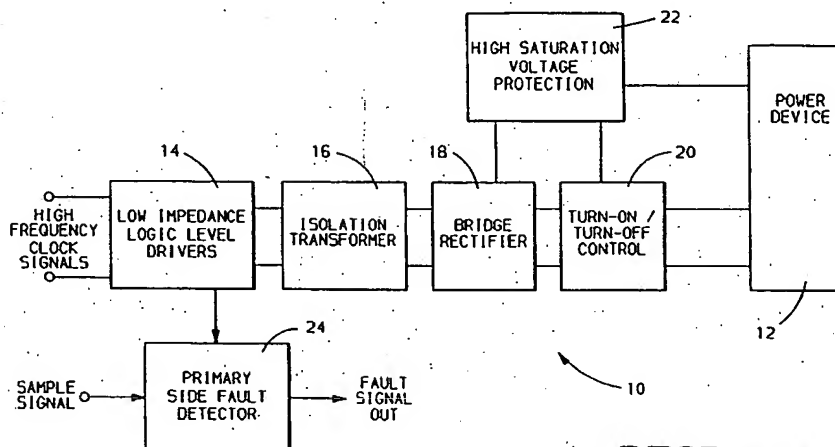


FIG. 1

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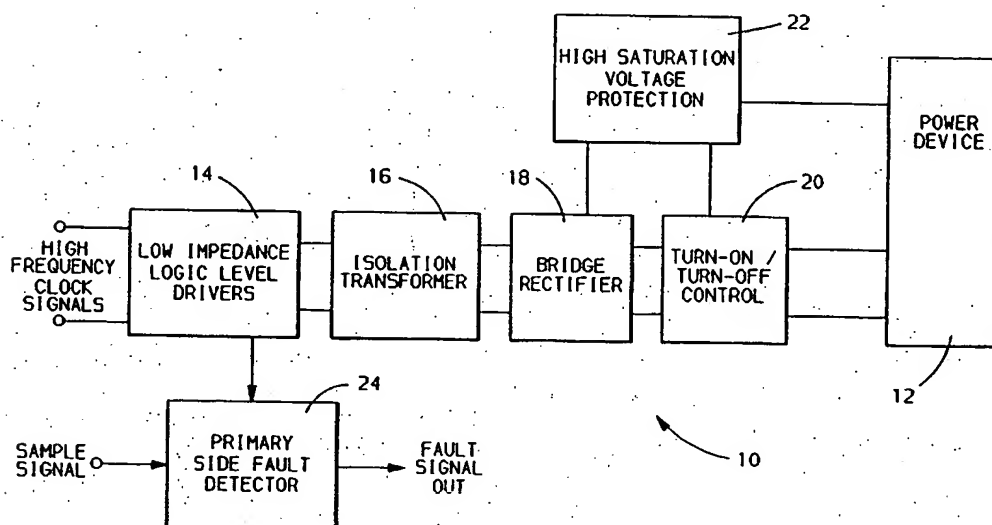


FIG. 1

EP 0 541 140 A2